

COPY OF LETTER FROM
JOSIAH MACY, JR. FOUNDATION
277 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017
(212) 826-8960

Aug 31 1970

August 25, 1970

Mr. Kenneth M. Ludmerer
The Johns Hopkins University
Institute of the History of Medicine
1900 East Monument Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21205

Dear Mr. Ludmerer:

It is true that my work at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, 1947-1950, as Deputy Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine was a major factor in my supporting the development of medical genetics at Wisconsin. As Deputy Director I was involved in support of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission program at Hiroshima and at Nagasaki. At that time there was major genetics study led by Dr. James Neel. Genetics was represented on our Advisory Committee by Dr. George Beadle.

Another factor was my long-standing friendship with Professor J. Lederberg dating back to 1950. He was Professor of Genetics at Wisconsin when I became the Dean and he stimulated me to think seriously about the importance of developing a Department of Medical Genetics. I do not recall any substantial opposition from the faculty; probably their only concern was about how much laboratory space they would lose!

I do not know of any other specific example of "radiation-induced" genetics departments.

James F. Crow, James Neel, Curt Stern or Josh Lederberg could probably handle your question on "practical imperative."

It will be interesting to see the results of your study.

BOWERS, J. Z.

- 2 -

Mr. Kenneth M. Ludmerer

August 25, 1970

Please give my regards to Lloyd G. Stevenson.

Yours sincerely,



John Z. Bowers, M.D.
President

JZB:ms

CC: Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D. ✓